

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended in a manner consistent with paragraphs 45-48 and paragraph 95 of the published patent application corresponding to the subject application and bearing U.S. Publication No. US 2006/0135701 A1. Also, Claim 1 has been amended to recite the language “where Y' is selected from the group consisting of...”

Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to employ the language “where X' is selected from the group consisting of...”

Claim 10 has been amended in a manner consistent with Claim 1.

Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to employ the language “where X' is selected from the group consisting of...”

Claim 18 has been cancelled.

Claim 19 has been amended, and the amendments find support at paragraphs 13 and 14 of the published patent application corresponding to the subject application and bearing U.S. Publication No. US 2006/0135701 A1.

Claim 22 has been amended by deleting “tributyltin” and to recite 1-(3-bromopropyl)-2,2,5,5-tetramethyl-1-aza-2,5-disilacyclopentane as set forth in paragraph 95 of the published patent application corresponding to the subject application and bearing U.S. Publication No. US 2006/0135701 A1.

Claim 23 has been cancelled.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 112, 1ST PARAGRAPH

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 8-13, 17, and 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement.

With respect to Claim 9, the Examiner contends that there is no disclosure of additives comprising vulcanized natural rubber or vulcanized synthetic rubber.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. With reference again to U.S. Publication No. 2006/0135701 A1, paragraph 57 indicates that the functionalized polymers of the present invention are useful in preparing tire components, and that the functionalized polymers can be

used alone or together with other rubbery polymers. Paragraph 65 explains that the rubber compositions, which as noted above may include functionalized polymers and other rubbery polymers, can be processed into tire components according to ordinary tire manufacturing techniques including standard rubber shaping, molding, and curing techniques. Paragraph 65 further explains that the cured or cross-linked rubber compositions may be referred to as vulcanizates, which generally contain three-dimensional polymeric networks that are thermoset. Accordingly, Applicants maintain that Claim 9 is fully supported by the written description.

With regard to Claims 19 and 23, the Examiner contends that there is no disclosure of “at least one of X' and Y'” providing “an imine group or an alkyl tin group”, can be found in the disclosure as originally filed.”

In view of this rejection, the phrase “an imine group or an alkyl tin group” has been removed from Claim 19, and Claim 23 has been cancelled.

The Examiner also contends that Claims 19 and 20 do not contain a disclosure of “at least one of X' and Y'” corresponding to a generic “epoxide group.”

Again, Claim 23 has been cancelled, and Claim 19 no longer includes the term “epoxide group.”

With respect to Claim 22, the Examiner contends that the term “disilacyclopentane” is not supported because “2,5-” is missing from the compound name.

In response, Claim 22 has been amended.

Also, with respect to Claim 22, the Examiner contends that there is no disclosure of “tributyltin” in the originally filed application.

In response, Claim 22 has been amended by deleting the term “tributyltin.”

With respect to claims 1 and 10, the Examiner contends that there is no disclosure of any compounds in the 16th or 17th lines corresponding to epoxy-generating reagents.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Paragraph 41 of U.S. Publication No. 2006/0135701 teaches that examples of suitable Y' functionalizing compounds include epoxy-generating reagents, and paragraph 46 provides specific examples of epoxy-generating agents that are claimed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 112, 2ND PARAGRAPH

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 4, 12, 13, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out stickly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner contends that the word “comprises” in the definition of X' and/or Y' is indefinite.

In response, Claims 3, 4, 12, and 13 have been amended to recite that “where X' is selected from the group consisting of....” In order to consistent, Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite “where Y' is selected from the group consisting of....”

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 102

U.S. Pat. No.4,927,887

The Examiner has rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tate, et al., U.S. Pat No. 4,927,887.

The cancellation of Claim 18 has rendered this rejection moot.

U.S. Publication No. 2005/0070672

The Examiner has rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ozawa, et al., U.S. Publication No. 2005/0070672.

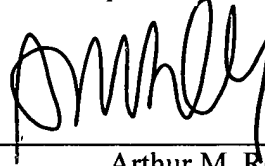
The cancellation of Claim 18 has rendered this rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request early and favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

If necessary to affect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to affect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-0925 (Docket #: P02055US2A).

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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